

than that, and infrequently less. But now rates are presumably reduced to the lowest possible figure compatible with the payment of small interest upon the capital invested and the earning of operating expenses. Nevertheless, there are populist papers and orators everywhere constantly lamenting the extortions of soulless corporations and diabolical monopolies. But a barrel of flour is transported from Chicago to New York at one-seventeenth of one cent per mile. The reductions of railway charges have been more rapid than the reductions in any other service rendered to the general public.

The railroads offer to the people the transportation of passengers and freight.

A Composite Service. This transportation service is a composite or concrete service. In transporting people and commodities the railroad combines nearly every intellectual and physical effort of which mankind is capable. The iron in its cars and engines has been mined in the depths of the earth. The coal which evolves the steam has likewise been brought from darkness into light. In getting out those two minerals all the knowledge of mine engineers, all the skill of trained miners and every available mechanism for hoisting and mining mineral products have been utilized. The track over which the line extends itself has been thrown up, a shovelful at a time, by the hand of toil. The ties upon which the rails are stretched have been cut from the forest by the woodman's axe. The alignment of the road has been instituted by the best intellectual efforts of civil engineering. Thus it is seen that the railroad service is a composite of all the efforts which humanity is capable of making.

In view of the foregoing, if the legislature may logically, justly and properly fix the rates to be charged for this

composite service of transportation of persons and property, then why should it not also fix the rates of each component part of that service which the railroad company has to purchase? When there is a strike in the coal mines and the iron mines, among the tie cutters and among the graders, and their wages are raised, why should not the railway be likewise allowed to raise the price of the composite service? If government may put a limit to the charges for transportation, why should not government also, by legislation, put a limit to the wages which must be paid by those who furnish transportation to all of their employees? Now can it be just to limit the earnings of the composite when the integrals who make up that composite are unlimited as to the compensation they may demand and secure?

It is a fortunate thing for the government of the United States that other governments were never seized with

paroxysmal sympathy for the negroes and Indians under its control and supervision. Had England and Germany, or Russia and France, become delirious with altruistic humanity and Christianity and interposed to ameliorate the treatment and assuage the sufferings of Indians and negroes in the American Union, sometime ago, they could have used the same arguments that the jingoists used to bring on the Spanish war and now also warm over to justify annexation, expansion and civilization by subjugation.

NEW ARMY THREE CARD MONTE.

In some regiments of the army of the United States among the private soldiers it is related that a new and peculiar game of three card monte has been instituted and become exceedingly amusing and popular.

This new game is played with the card photographs of Secretary Alger, General Miles and Commissary-General Egan.

The cards are manipulated, shuffled and thrown face downward with the exclamations:

"Where now is embalmed beef?"

"Five dollars that no man can turn the little joker—where is, who is, embalmed beef?"

The better against the game turns either Alger, Miles or Egan and his guess is registered, with amount wagered, to await the findings of a court-martial.

This is said to be the most innocent, inexpensive, suggestive and instructive gambling indulged in by the military during the present century.

THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED.

The declaration of independence declares: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

This last clause can only be properly and practically applied to an intelligent and virtuous people. The consent to be governed, given by an ignorant and vicious race makes a poor foundation for efficient government. A government for the penitentiary based upon the consent of the convicts would not afford very stringent regulations for the maintenance of order.

Does the United States now propose a government for the Philippine Islands without "deriving any just powers from the consent of the governed?" All the advocates of expansion and annexation declare against this particular phrase in the second paragraph of the declaration of independence or else they place the islanders whose country they would ab-

sorb upon a level with convicts in the penitentiary.

In any event a republican form of government can only be perpetuated by an intelligent and honest people. Ignorance and vice, barbarism, and savagery are incompetent for self-government. The welfare of this republic depends upon the mental and moral development of the American people. Every addition to its population of mixed races of a lower intellectual and ethical standard, makes a new menace to its solidity and continuance. It is dangerous to undertake a government of force for one class and a government of consent for another. The two things cannot mix any more than fire and ice, oil and water. This republic must be all self-governing or all subject to the rule of force. Is it incumbent on intelligent and patriotic citizens of the United States to jeopardize their own liberties in the endeavor to hold unwilling subjects in the Pacific archipelago?

LANDSCAPES. An inhabitant of Nebraska City who

has occasion to visit the city of Lincoln, cannot fail to rejoice on returning home that it has been given him to dwell in the smaller town, instead of at the seat of government. Lincoln is admirably located for purposes of legislation, being so set, like a wart, upon the open face of Nebraska, that every wind that blows has free access to all parts of it, and unobstructed egress as well. A populist watchman, moreover, if set upon the highest pinnacle of the capitol building, could discern the approach of a Money Power, or any other public enemy, at a great distance, since there is nothing in any direction to obstruct the view. But one would think that the citizens of the place, being constantly aggravated by the sight of passing trains, which were on the pleasant plains of the Missouri river a few hours before and will stand at the foot of the Rocky mountains on the following morning, would want to pack up in a body and emigrate to some place where there was something to see. Lift up your eyes on any street in Lincoln, and at the end of it you will see the same bare, raw, utterly cheerless and unsuggestive expanse of open country; summer and winter it is alike desolate. Whereas one who has been initiated into the beauties of our own location, is always gladder that it is his home with each added return from absence. In our wooded and cultivated hills there is infinite variety, and in our shaded and sloping streets many a welcome change; the possessor of tired eyes can always rest them by turning them upon some pleasant hillside without the city, or some mighty oak-tree near at hand; or else he can catch a distant glimpse of the river-valley, which is very fair.